

Deterrence

By Pedro Vera



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs-NonCommercial License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd-nc/2.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California 94305, USA.

The men were bound, blinded and gagged. Most were still wearing their uniforms.

One by one they were marched out of the cattle trucks into a small patch of trees. Pushing and shoving, wordless, made sure the men moved and positioned themselves as their captors wished them to.

One by one, the black piece of cloth used to blind them was removed. The men found themselves standing at the edge of a 40-foot wide, 6 feet deep trench. All 20 of them.

Most of them were still dizzy and confused (they got kidnapped after a meeting), and it took almost a minute for them to register what it was.

Of course, they could not scream, they were still bound and gagged.

The men could not see their captors since huge floodlights were placed around the area, strategically aimed to blind them.

A voice thundered.

"Are we ready?" he asked the leader of the guards.

"Yes sir."

"Ok, take your positions."

The man walked to the opposite end of the pit, then addressed the 20 men:

"Most of you know each other, and know what do you have in common with each other. Each of you has in the past committed one serious act of racial hatred that has resulted in the death of at least one person. This is not a trial, this is an execution and there are no appeals."

Twenty men blinked. Hard.

"Fire."

Each man was shot in the back of the neck at point blank range with a small caliber pistol. Each man, still wearing his Ku Klux Klan uniform, was thrown into the pit. The bodies were not covered in any way. Photos were taken of the whole affair, and video cameras had run all along. Within minutes both will be posted on the Internet.

The same scene was repeated thru the country. Groups of 20 to 30 racial bigots of every sex, color and religious affiliation were kidnapped in the middle of the night, taken to a remote location and shot in the back of the neck. Each one met two specific requirements:

1. The person had caused the loss of a life due to racial violence and had not received judicial punishment.

2. The person was 18 years old at the time of the loss of life.

In Augusta, Birmingham and Richmond it was Ku Klux Klan. Elsewhere it was neo Nazis. In Los Angeles it was black supremacists. In Washington it was muslim extremists.

America woke up the next morning to a slaughter of unbelievable proportions. Literally every television and radio station in the country was tuned in to the story: All over the country men and women were found executed, many of them wearing racist-type uniforms and ceremonial clothing.

It did not take long for the violent demonstrations to start. By noon there had been clashes between the KKK and the general populace.

Homes and businesses owned by blacks were torched down.

At 2:00 PM CNN announced that an anonymous warning had been sent to them and all major news clearinghouses: any incident of racially-incited violence will be met with the same kind of force that was displayed during the executions.

America did very little for the rest of the day. It had been the highest news ratings day since September 11, 2001.

**

The next morning, the same thing happened. More dead bodies with the corresponding media blitz and civil unrest.

The press assailed the president mercilessly. The question in everybody's mind: what happened to the FBI?

It was obvious that this was an organized effort, so the FBI had jurisdiction.

The FBI, of course, did not have a clue. They had a horde of paper pushers checking the backgrounds of every person that had been executed. Eventually the pattern was corroborated: Each dead person had in the past been investigated and/or prosecuted for a death resulting from a

racial-violence incident. Each one had escaped justice. Also, the executions had been so far pretty much color blind: there was a proportional mix of races amongst the executed.

It was decided that it was better to come out clean and tell the public what had been found so far. The media did not slow down their barrage. Now they had a juicier story: a rogue organization of vigilantes had taken on the job of avenging countless racial crimes that had happened in the country in the past 50 years.

**

There were no killings on the third night and America finally relaxed a bit.

Over the next month, the ranks of every KKK, neo Nazi and other extremist organizations with a racial hatred agenda found its ranks decimated.

After three months, the killings stopped, but by then America and the media had stopped counting the bodies. The FBI had to close many case files since whole organizations were wiped out and they ran out of people to investigate them. Right as the last file was closed, the FBI started receiving anonymous hints that helped them trace the money that used to be pumped into these extremists. Eventually these terror bankers were executed too.

**

Conspiracy theories started. The "tin foil brigade" claimed the executions were either a shadow branch of the government. Or extraterrestrials. Movies were made exploiting this, but eventually it was forgotten. Every now and then some random act of violence would happen and the execution would happen, almost like clockwork. The media would make note of this and move on with the weather forecasts.

It was never explained who was behind the executions, but the thread of being whisked away in the middle of the night to be shot in the back of the neck and thrown into a common grave was a deterrent that nobody could afford to ignore. Racial violence finally became too dangerous for everyone involved.

The End

© 2004, Pedro Vera.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivs-NonCommercial License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd-nc/1.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California 94305, USA.

